

The privilege of democracy ... the right to vote

Q: Who is eligible to vote in California?

According to the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters, the requirements are:

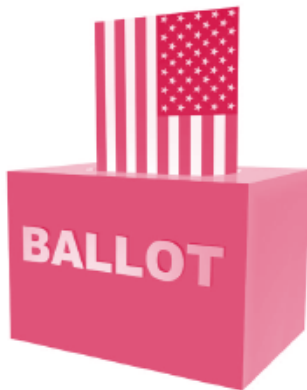
- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- A U.S. citizen
- A California resident
- Registered at least 15 days before the election
- Not in prison or on parole for a felony
- Not declared mentally incompetent by court action

Q: How do I register to vote?

California has postcard registration and the postcards are available at many convenient locations including:

- Registrar of Voters, 1555 Berger Dr., San Jose
- U.S. Post Offices
- Santa Clara City Library and other public libraries
- Santa Clara City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara
- Department of Motor Vehicles offices
- Santa Clara City Fire Stations

You may also call the Registrar of Voters at (408) 299-VOTE [8683], or toll free (866) 430-VOTE [8683]. A postcard will be sent to you. Or you can register online through the Office of the Secretary of State at www.ss.ca.gov/elections/votereg1.html.



Q: What information will be required?

- Your first, middle and last names.
- Your residence address, where you live. P.O. boxes, business and mailing addresses cannot be used for your residence address. If you do not have a residence address, contact the Voter Registration Division at (408) 299-8683 for assistance.
- Your mailing address, if different from your residence address. You may receive voter information at any address you designate.

- Your birth date and birthplace (state or foreign country).
- Your California Drivers License or Identification number or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. As of January 1, 2003, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) added a federal regulation requiring this information for every voter. This information is confidential and is not made public at any time.
- Your political affiliation, if any. If you do not want to be affiliated with party, select "Decline to State." Forms without a party designation will automatically be registered as "Decline to State."
- Your signature.

Q: Who has access to voter registration information?

Voter registration information is available to persons or groups for election, scholarly, journalistic, political, or governmental purposes as determined by the Secretary of State. All requests to view, purchase, or use voter registration information must be accompanied by a written application. Drivers License and Social Security numbers are not shown on any of these publications.

Q: Does registering to vote automatically put me on the list for jury duty?

No. Jury summons are sent randomly to U.S. citizens using a variety of source information, including DMV records. Registering to vote does not increase the likelihood that you will be called for jury duty.

Ethical

Campaigning Pledge

Both the State of California and the City of Santa Clara ask candidates to sign a voluntary pledge to campaign ethically. The names of candidates who make this pledge are available online at the City's website, www.santaclaraca.gov, and at the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1500 Warburton Ave.

Excerpts from the Code of Fair Campaign Practices Pledge signed by candidates

1. I shall conduct my campaign openly and publicly, discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with sincerity and frankness, and criticizing the record and policies of my opponent...which merit such criticism.

2. I shall not use or permit the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his or her personal or family life.

3. I shall not use or permit any appeal to negative prejudice based on a candidate's actual or perceived race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, sex, including gender identity, or association with another person who has any of the actual or perceived characteristics...

4. I shall not use or permit any dishonest or unethical practice which tends to corrupt or undermine our American system of free elections, or which hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of voters...

5. I shall not receive help or campaign contributions for myself or any other candidates from my employees.

6. I shall immediately and publicly repudiate support deriving from any individual or group which resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, to methods and tactics which I condemn...

7. I shall defend and uphold the right of every qualified American voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process.

California's Fair Political Practices Commission

Voters can contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for information on political campaign, lobbying, and conflict of interest laws ... to learn who is funding independent expenditures ... and to file complaints.

1-866-ASK-FPPC
(1-866-275-3772)
www.fppc.ca.gov

Watch 'The Final Word' Forum

Even though an increasing number of voters use absentee ballots that are mailed to the Registrar of Voters days or weeks earlier, there is still a flurry of campaign activity right before Election Day. It is a great time for candidates to make a positive impression on voters before they go to the polls.

Unfortunately, last-minute mailers sometimes have a different purpose – to attack an opponent with unsubstantiated negative charges that the candidate does not usually have time to refute.

The Final Word Forum in Santa Clara on Monday, Nov 3, discourages last-minute "hit pieces" because it guarantees the candidates have the opportunity to present their side of the story on the night before Election Day. It is broadcast on Cable Channel 15.

The advice to voters is to pay extra close attention to campaign materials received at the last minute, especially those that focus on criticizing the opponent rather than presenting the qualifications of the candidate.



Public education from the City of Santa Clara supporting the
City Code of Ethics & Values • www.VoteEthics.org

